

WEEK ONE  
WISCONSIN at SOUTH FLORIDA

Taylor scores 4 TDs, No. 19 Wisconsin routs USF 49-0 TAMPA, Fla.  
-- Jonathan Taylor is off and running.  
Catching, too.

Taking up where he left off a year ago, when he led the nation in rushing with 2,194 yards and 16 touchdowns, Taylor ran for 135 yards and accounted for four TDs to help No. 19 Wisconsin open the season with a 49-0 rout of South Florida on Friday night.

The junior scored on runs of 37 and 38 yards and also had the first two receiving TDs of his career as the Badgers strive to become a more balanced team on offense.

"You work all offseason like I did, and to have that receiving touchdown come to life, I'm really excited about that," said Taylor, who scooted 36 yards up the left sideline after taking a quick flip from Jack Coan in the second quarter. "It motivates you to see that hard work pay off."

Taylor's second TD reception gave the Badgers a 28-0 lead just before halftime. He finished with two catches for 48 yards after having just eight for 60 yards last season.

"Jonathan was good in a lot of different ways. He was awfully patient on one run, and he had the little screen that he took," Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said. "You get him in space and he's pretty good."

Wisconsin's defense delivered a dominating performance, too, limiting South Florida to 157 yards total offense and forcing three turnovers, including a fumble that Matt Henningsen returned 16 yards for a second quarter touchdown.

The loss was the seventh straight for USF, which dropped the final six games of 2018 after starting 7-0 and climbing into the Top 25.

"A very disappointing, very embarrassing loss," USF coach Charlie Strong said. "As a head coach, I thought I had them ready to play and I guess I didn't. And we showed it."

Blake Barnett completed 13 of 30 passes for 109 yards for the Bulls. He was intercepted twice.

"The team that played out there tonight is not the team that we are," the quarterback said. "A lot of mental errors, lack of execution, lack of effort. It stems from everyone, that's myself included."

THE TAKEAWAY

Taylor joined Melvin Gordon (2014) and Ron Dayne (1996, 1999) as the only Badgers to top 2,000 yards rushing in a season in 2018, and he looks like he's primed for another big year after gaining 100-plus for the 23rd time in 28 career games. Coan carried his share of the load, too, rebounding from overthrowing a couple of open receivers deep in the first half to finish 19 of 26 for 199 yards without an interception.

Last season's collapse prompted Strong to make several changes, including hiring NCAA Division II national championship-winning coach Kerwin Bell as offensive coordinator. The Bulls were held to 26 yards rushing and outgained 433 to 157 overall.

WEATHER DELAY

The start of the game was delayed 55 minutes because of lightning.

RARE COMPANY

Taylor rushed for 4,171 yards as a freshman and sophomore, most ever by a Football Bowl Subdivision player in the first two years of a career. With 135 Friday night, he moved within 694 of joining Dayne, Georgia's Herschel Walker and Oregon's LaMichael James as the only players to rush for over 5,000 through their junior season.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Realistically, minimal. The Badgers opened with a true road game for the first time since beating UNLV 41-21 in Las Vegas in 2010. And while Chryst welcomed what he anticipated would be a good test from USF, the Bulls were overmatched from the start.

OUCH

The 49-point setback was the worst in the 23-year history of USF's program, surpassing a 42-3 loss to Arkansas in 2002. The Bulls were shut out for the first time since falling 16-0 at home to UCF in 2014.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WIS	7	21	14	7	49
USF	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring Summary -----

	WIS	USF
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
WIS TD 10:48 Jonathan Taylor 37 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)	7	0
8 plays, 77 yards, 4:12		
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
WIS TD 12:58 Matt Henningsen 16 Yd Fumble Return (Collin Larsh Kick)	14	0
2 plays, -5 yards, 0:35		
WIS TD 10:37 Jonathan Taylor 36 Yd pass from Jack Coan (Collin Larsh Kick)	21	0
4 plays, 55 yards, 1:30		
WIS TD 0:02 Jonathan Taylor 12 Yd pass from Jack Coan (Collin Larsh Kick)	28	0
11 plays, 80 yards, 5:10		
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
WIS TD 13:00 Jonathan Taylor 38 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)	35	0
3 plays, 64 yards, 1:19		
WIS TD 3:06 Nakia Watson 27 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)	42	0
4 plays, 40 yards, 1:31		
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
WIS TD 7:28 Bradrick Shaw 15 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)	49	0
3 plays, 32 yards, 1:32		

Team Stats	WIS	USF
First Downs	22	9
Passes for First	9	5
Rushes for First	13	3
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	6-13	3-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-2
Total Yards	433	157
Total Plays	69	56
Avg Gain Per Play	6.3	2.8
Net Yards Rushing	234	26
Rushes	43	23
Yards Per Rush	5.4	1.1
Net Yards Passing	199	131
Comp-Att	19-26	16-33
Yards Per Pass	7.7	4.0
Times Sacked	3	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-20	-30
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	5	8
Punt Average	40.8	44.3
Penalties	4	9
Penalty Yards	40	45
Fumbles	1	4
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Time of Poss	35:00	25:00

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
WISCONSIN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jonathan Taylor	16	135	8.4	2	38		
Nakia Watson	14	80	5.7	1	27		
Bradrick Shaw	2	15	7.5	1	15		
Garrett Groshek	2	11	5.5	0	8		
A.J. Taylor	1	5	5.0	0	5		
John Chenal	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Jack Coan	7	-14	-2.0	0	4		
USF	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jordan McCloud	3	17	5.7	0	19		
Jordan Cronkrite	6	9	1.5	0	5		
Trevon Sands	5	2	0.4	0	3		
Spencer Shrader	1	1	1.0	0	1		
Kelley Joiner Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0		
Blake Barnett	7	-3	-0.4	0	10		
PASSING							
WISCONSIN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Coan	19	26	199	7.7	2	0	74.7
USF	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Blake Barnett	13	30	109	3.6	0	2	4.7
Jordan McCloud	3	3	22	7.3	0	0	74.4
RECEIVING							
WISCONSIN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jonathan Taylor	2	48	24.0	2	36		
Kendric Pryor	4	40	10.0	0	13		
Quintez Cephus	3	39	13.0	0	17		
Jake Ferguson	3	20	6.7	0	8		
Danny Davis III	2	19	9.5	0	11		
Garrett Groshek	2	13	6.5	0	16		
John Chenal	1	12	12.0	0	12		
A.J. Taylor	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Jack Dunn	1	-1	-1.0	0	-1		
USF	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jordan Cronkrite	3	23	7.7	0	12		
Randall St. Felix	3	21	7.0	0	10		
Bryce Miller	3	16	5.3	0	9		
Kevin Purlett	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Trevon Sands	1	13	13.0	0	13		
DeVontres Dukes	1	13	13.0	0	13		
Jernard Phillips	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Mitchell Wilcox	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Xavier Weaver	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Sean Atkins	1	1	1.0	0	1		